

Where's Your Chair?

Genesis 44 1-17



Give the king your judgements, O God, and your righteousness to the son of a king.
Then shall he judge your people righteously and your poor with justice.
Psalm 72:1-2

Praising:

Thine for ever! Lord of life,
shield us through our earthly
strife;
thou the Life, the Truth, the Way,
guide us to the realms of day.

Reading:

Genesis 44:1-17
Joseph sets one last test

As the brothers had despatched with Joseph all those years before, the discovery of the hidden cup presents them with the opportunity to do exactly the same thing now with Benjamin. On first reading, Joseph's plot to entrap his brothers on their way back to Canaan seems odd and even slightly random. What's more, Joseph had no way of knowing how his brothers would react. He had seen them show humility, and when challenged by

the steward they vigorously protest their honesty. But still: is their repentance genuine? In essence, this is a test for Joseph and the brothers themselves to see if they really have changed. In panic and self-defence they could still turn on Benjamin and walk away from him at the last minute. Instead of which, they accompany him back to Egypt.

Listening:

Praying:

As we consider our lives before you Lord

- we recognise the sin that has kept us so long from your love
- we reject its power to enchain and enslave us for ever
- we rejoice that by the cross of Jesus we are forgiven and set free

Father: when the same sins tempt and taunt me over and over again, grant me your holy power to hold out against them, and to know that in Christ I truly am a new creation. Amen

Doing:

Wednesday, 03 February 2016